



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE NEWS RELEASE

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New Approach to Patient Transport Introduced

Today, January 14, 2008, Fire Chief Phil Boriskie, City of Houston EMS Physician Director/Public Health Authority Dr. David E. Persse and several physicians will address City Council at the Public Safety Committee meeting at 10 a.m. in Council Chambers to introduce a new approach to patient transport that is aimed at increasing EMS and hospital efficiency. Interview opportunities will be available following the meeting.

Through this new approach to patient transport, the City intends to assist patients with their transport decisions. Calls for service requiring transport will be routed to the closest most appropriate hospital to handle that patient's complaint. Patients who are experiencing an exacerbation of a chronic ailment and have an established relationship with a doctor or hospital for that ailment will be transported to that hospital. Integral to this approach is the Base Station Operation (Telemetry) at the Houston Emergency Center (HEC)

The HEC will offer media the chance to visit the Base Station today at 2 p.m. Media persons wishing to roll some footage of the Base Station at the HEC need to RSVP with HEC PIO Joe Laud at 713-884-4555.